

Good morning, my name is Marie Lenane and I am a Purchase of Service Pricing Analyst at the Executive Office of Health and Human Services. I am here to present testimony regarding the proposed amendments to 101 CMR 330.00: Rates for Team Evaluation Services. The proposed effective date for the amendments is September 1, 2021.

In accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 71B (also known as “Chapter 766”), the Massachusetts special education law, team evaluations are performed by a multidisciplinary team and consist of assessments in all areas related to the child's suspected need for special education and services. Team evaluations are available for individuals from 3 to 21 years of age and include services provided by clinical psychologists, educators, physical therapists, speech therapists, occupational therapists, audiologists, medical doctors, and clinical laboratories.

The local educational authority is the local school district and the purchaser by law, under M.G.L. Chapter 71.

Pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 118E, Section 13D, EOHHS is required to establish by regulation and biennially review the rates to be paid by governmental units to providers of social service programs, which include team evaluation services. In accordance with this requirement, the rates for team evaluation services are being updated to include an increase by a cost adjustment factor (or “CAF”) of 2% and to incorporate salary benchmarks derived from the Bureau of Labor Statistics median salary, 2019 edition. The CAF was determined by using baseline and prospective Massachusetts Economic Indicator data from IHS Economics – Fall 2020 Forecast, optimistic scenario data. The CAF reflects the period between the rates’ base period (calendar year 2021 second quarter) and the prospective calendar year 2021 third quarter through calendar year 2023 second quarter.

The proposed amendments also include the following updates for clarity and consistency:

- a) Under 101 CMR 330.01(6): *Services and Rates Covered by Other Regulations*, audiological evaluations will be separated from physical therapy evaluations and those for occupational therapy and speech pathology since audiological services are now covered under 101 CMR 323.00: *Hearing Services*.
- b) In 101 CMR 330.02, the definition of “Comprehensive Neuropsychological Assessment” has been updated for clarity and consistency.

The total projected annualized cost to the local education authorities from the increase in rates under the proposed regulation is \$48,000, which represents an increase of 5.95% over current spending of approximately \$807,000.

This concludes my testimony. Thank you.